

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10. (*Cancelled*)

11. (***Currently Amended***): An apparatus for performing an operation inside a vessel jet pump of a nuclear reactor in which the jet pump includes an opening with a tapered surface, the apparatus comprising:

an apparatus body having an elongated tubular member sized to be essentially fully inserted into ~~[[a]]~~ the jet pump of the nuclear reactor, the tubular member having an upper portion that defines a top end of the apparatus body and is attached to a wire for support;

a weight for imparting gravitational force on the apparatus body, the weight having an upper portion that is coupled to ~~[[the]]~~ a lower portion of the tubular member via a bellows ~~mechanism~~;

a guide rod abuttedly connected to ~~[[the]]~~ a lower portion of the weight, the lower portion of the weight defining ~~[[the]]~~ a bottom end of the apparatus body, the guide rod being elastically biased toward a predetermined, non-zero angle relative to a vertical axis of the apparatus body;

~~a tool, communicatively coupled to the apparatus body, configured to conduct the operation,~~

wherein, the biased, predetermined non-zero angle of the guide rod facilitates entry of the guide rod into ~~[[a]]~~ the tapered surface of ~~[[an]]~~ the jet pump opening ~~of the jet pump, and~~

wherein, after the guide rod is inserted into the jet pump opening, the apparatus body is lowered via the wire so that the apparatus body is essentially fully inserted into the jet pump to ~~enable the tool to conduct~~ perform the operation.

12. - 14. (*Cancelled*).

15. *(Withdrawn)* An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11, wherein an angle between the guide and the body is adjustable.

16. *(Withdrawn)* An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11, wherein the tool commonly serves as the guide.

17. *(Withdrawn)* An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11, wherein the body includes:

at least 3 members interconnected by joints, at least one of the joints being at least one of a rotational joint and a bending joint; and

a plurality of extendable supports capable of stabilizing the body against a first plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

18. *(Withdrawn)* An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11 further comprising:

a first plurality of extendable supports attached to the body and capable of stabilizing the body against a first plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

19. *(Withdrawn)* An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 18 further comprising:

a second plurality of extendable supports attached to the body and capable of stabilizing the body against a second plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

20. *(Withdrawn)* An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11 wherein, the body includes a plurality of joints, the joints including a joint that rotates around the vertical axis and a joint that adjusts an angle with respect to the vertical axis.

21. – 23. *(Cancelled)*.

24. (*Withdrawn*) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21, wherein an angle between the guide and the body is adjustable.

25. (*Withdrawn*) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21, wherein the tool commonly serves as the guide.

26. (*Withdrawn*): An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21, wherein the body includes:

at least 3 members interconnected by joints, at least one of the joints being at least one of a rotational joint and a bending joint; and

a plurality of extendable supports capable of stabilizing the body against a first plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

27. (*Withdrawn*) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21 further comprising:

a first plurality of extendable supports attached to the body and capable of stabilizing the body against a first plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

28. (*Withdrawn*) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 27 further comprising:

a second plurality of extendable supports attached to the body and capable of stabilizing the body against a second plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

29. (*Withdrawn*) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21 wherein, the body includes a plurality of joints, the joints including a joint that rotates around the vertical axis and a joint that adjusts an angle with respect to the vertical axis.

30. – 32. (*Cancelled*).

33. (**Currently Amended**): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the bellows ~~mechanism~~ comprises an elastic member coupling the lower portion of the tubular member to the upper portion of the weight.

34. (**Currently Amended**): The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the bellows ~~mechanism~~ imparts a biasing force to restore the guide rod to the predetermined, non-zero angle relative to a vertical axis of the apparatus body.